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O SUNDAY EXAMINER AND CHRONICLE
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BETWEEN THE LINES *Patricia Holt*

Assassination Enigma Endures

That was quite an ad from Random House in a recent issue of the New York Times for Gerald Posner's "Case Closed" (see review on cover). Above mug shots and selected quotations (Jim Garrison: "The JFK assassination was a homosexual thrill-killing") by five authors and a film maker (Oliver Stone), the headline announced, "GUILTY / Of Misleading the American Public." The ad smacks of playing dirty and sounds a little lame. If Posner's book should be judged on its own merits, why stoop to the "Most-Wanted" poster approach?

Of course, using selective information to prove one's case is common practice among JFK assassination authors. But Posner wants to distance himself from all others; he wants his book to be regarded as so fair and complete that after reading it, we'll all say, OK, that's the end of it — "case closed."

But take the case of Failure Analysis Associates, the Menlo Park firm that used computer enhancements to reconstruct the JFK assassination for a 1992 study. Posner refers to that study repeatedly but does not explain that Failure Analysis was commissioned by the American Bar Association to create its reconstruction for the ABA's mock trial of Lee Harvey Oswald in San Francisco last year. The trial ended with a hung jury.

According to Angela Meyer of Failure Analysis, "Our job for the ABA was to provide evidence and expert witnesses for *both* the defense and the prosecution." Posner appears to draw from testimony for the prosecution's case, not the defense's case.

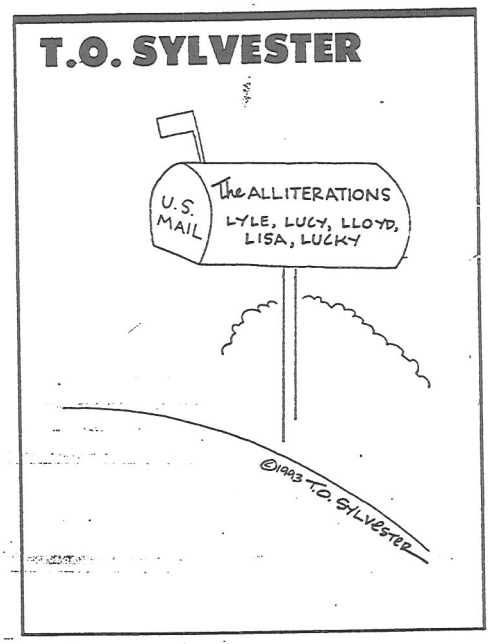
Although Failure Analysis was not asked to provide its own opinion of Oswald's guilt or innocence, the company's CEO, Roger McCarthy (who testified for the defense at the mock trial), offered what host Brian Banmiller called "a startling conclusion" during the TV program "On the Money" on July 31.

Failure Analysis, announced Banmiller, "made a compelling argument that Lee Harvey Oswald did not act alone." According to McCarthy, the gunman "gave up some awfully good shots to take some awfully bad shots" to "(drive) the quarry into a second shooting" by other assassins.

Banmiller then remarked, "Few sharpshooters, much less Oswald, could hit a moving target taking shots as rapidly as Oswald supposedly did." He asked McCarthy, "Can it be done?" McCarthy responded, "I can't. I'm the best shot I know. I can't do that."

Banmiller concluded, "Thirty years later, no one, not even Failure Analysis, is ready to say conclusively who killed President Kennedy." Case open. ■

Patricia Holt is book editor for The Chronicle.



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lowing an open mike. 8 p.m., LaVal's, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. (510) 849-3979.

CAROL SEVERANCE: Reading from her work. 2 p.m., The Other Change of Hobbit, 2020 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 848-0413.

WILLIAM F. WU: Signing copies of his books. 4 p.m., The Other Change of Hobbit, 2020 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 848-0413.

ROBERT MICHAEL PYLE: Discussing "The Thunder Tree: Lessons From an Urban Wildland." 7:30 p.m., Black Oak Books, 1491 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley. (510) 486-0698.

KAREN ELIZABETH GORDON: Discussing "The Well-Tempered Sentence." 8 p.m., Printers Inc. Bookstore, 301 Castro St., Mountain View. 961-8500.

JORGE ARGUETA & ALEJANDRO MURGUIA: A selection of poetry and prose readings. 8 p.m., Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia St., S.F. 626-ARTS.

EILEEN MYLES & ANNETTE WEATHERS: Reading from their work. 7:30 p.m., A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St., S.F. 431-0891.

SANDRA BERNHARD: Reading from "Love, Love." 7 p.m., Cody's Books, 2454 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. (510) 845-7852.

SOGYAL RINPOCHE: Discussing "The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying." 7:30 p.m., A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books, 2417 Larkspur Landing Circle, Larkspur. 461-

SOGYAL RINPOCHE: Discussing "The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying." 7:30 p.m., A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books, 601 Van Ness Ave., S.F. 441-6670.

GARY SOTO: Reading his poetry. 7 p.m., Cody's Books, 2454 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. (510) 845-7852.

VIRGINIA BEANE RUTTER: Discussing "Woman Changing Woman." 8 p.m., The Depot Bookstore, 87 Throckmorton Ave., Mill Valley. 383-2665.

ROBERT MICHAEL PYLE: Reading from "The Thunder Tree: Lessons From an Urban Wildland." 7:30 p.m., A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books, 2417 Larkspur Landing Circle, Larkspur. 461-0171.

THURSDAY

CYDNEY CHADWICK: Reading from her work. 8 p.m., The Depot Bookstore, 87 Throckmorton Ave., Mill Valley. 383-2665.

STORYTIME: Stories for children ages 2-5. 9:15 a.m., Charlotte's Web Bookstore, 2278 Union St., S.F. 441-4700.

MICHAEL KIMMEL & TERRY KUPERS: Leading a discussion on gender issues as experienced by pro-feminist men. 7:30 p.m., GAIA Bookstore, 1400 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 486-0698.

DEMONSTRATION: Information on CD-ROM. 7:30 p.m., Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. 324-4321.

Vista Blvd., Corte Madera. 927-0960.

ROBERT HASS & BRENDA HILLMAN: Reading from and discussing their work. 7:30 p.m., Eye Gallery, 1151 Mission St., S.F. 338-2227.

LOUIE GARCIA ROBINSON: Reading from "The Devil, Delfina and the Used Chevy." 7:30 p.m., A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books, 2417 Larkspur Landing Circle, Larkspur. 461-0171.

BILL RANE: An exhibit of his work. A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books, 2417 Larkspur Landing Circle, Larkspur. 461-0171.

SOGYAL RINPOCHE: Reading from "The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying." 7 p.m., Copperfield's Books, 138 North Main St., Sebastopol. (707) 823-0677.

JOAN CHATFIELD-TAYLOR: A visual tour based on "Visiting Eden: The Public Gardens of Northern California." 7:30 p.m., Easing Going Travel, 1385 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 843-3533.

PAT CALIFIA: Reading from her published and unpublished work. 7:30 p.m., Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St., S.F. 282-9246.

FRIDAY

JOSE BARREIRO: Reading from "The Indian Chronicles." 7:30 p.m., Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St., S.F. 282-9246.

DAVID WATMOUGH: Reading from "Thy

THOMAS TREBITSCH PARKER: Reading from "Anna, Ann, Annie." 7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 2352 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 644-0861.

ANN NEWMAN: A story hour for children. 6:30 p.m., The Depot Bookstore, 87 Throckmorton Ave., Mill Valley. 383-7012.

HILARY MULLINS: Reading from "The Cat Came Back." 7:30 p.m., Walden Pond Books, 3316 Grand Ave., Oakland. (510) 832-4438.

GREG SARRIS: Discussing "Keeping Slug Woman Alive: A Holistic Approach to American Indian Texts." 7 p.m., Copperfield's Books, 138 North Main St., Sebastopol. (707) 823-0677.

SATURDAY

STORYTIME: Stories for children ages 2-6. 11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 2020 Redwood Hwy., Larkspur. 924-1096.

CATHARINE A. MACKINNON: Discussing "Only Words." 7 p.m., Cody's Books, 2454 Telegraph Ave., S.F. (510) 845-7852.

PETER ARMOUR & ANDREW SCHACHAT: Signing copies of "Stop That Pickle!" 10 a.m., Charlotte's Web Children's Bookstore, 2278 Union St., S.F. 441-4700.

ANDREA BROWN: A luncheon discussion of her work as a literary agent. 11:30 a.m., The Velvet Turtle Restaurant, 100 Chilpancingo,